Pol 23-9 U VOLTA

(R) (From Dept 6/8) 45

INCOMING TELEGRAM *Department of State*

84-80

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Action
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PP RUEHC RUEHCR
DE RUFHPA 080 0041830
ZNY CCCCC
P R 041800Z
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3757
INFO: RUEHCR/AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU 31
ZEN/AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN 48
ZEN/AMEMBASSY LOME 26
ZEN/AMEMBASSY COTONOU 33
ZEN/AMEMBASSY NIAMEY 26
STATE GRNC
BT

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE JANUARY 4

POUCH TO FOL: BANGUI DAKAR FORT LAMY KIGALI LIBREVILLE LEOPOLDVILLE NOUAKCHOTT TANANARIVE YAOUNDE

VOLTAN COUP

1. QUAI'S OCAM AFFAIRS CHIEF INFORMED EMBOFF 1700 LOCAL JAN 4 THAT FRENCH COMMUNICATIONS SLIGHTLY IMPROVED. LAST TELEGRAM RECEIVED BY QUAI FROM FRENCH EMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU DESCRIBES SITUATION 10 O'CLOCK MORNING JAN 4. INFORMATION ADDS LITTLE TO AFP REPORTS VIZ. THAT VOLTAN CROWDS (A) BEING

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URGED DISPERSE AND RETURN TO WORK; (B) ARE DEMANDING ARREST AND TRIAL PRESIDENT YAMEOGO.

2. FRENCH EMBASSY ALSO REPORTED THAT AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU ALMOST SACKED NIGHT JAN 3 AND CROWD BARELY STOPPED IN TIME BY UNION LEADERS.

3. UNSIGNED FRONTPAGE COMMENT IN INFLUENTIAL LEMONDE (DATED JAN 5) SUGGESTS THAT INFLUENCE UNNAMED WESTERN POWERS INTERESTED IN EVOLUTION AFRICAN CONTINENT NOT UNRELATED SERIES OF WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICAN COUPS BE ELEMENTS APPARENTLY (A) HOSTILE TO CHICOMS AND (B) DESIROUS STRENGTHENING COOPERATION WITH FORMER METROPOLES AND WEST GENERALLY. (COMBAT JAN 4 REPORTS RUMOR SPREADING WITHIN GOF ALLEGING US INVOLVEMENT IN DAHOMEYAN AND VOLTAN COUPS).

(1)

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
1966 JAN 4 PM 2
REVIEWED BY EG DATE 8 MAR 1982
RDS or XDS, DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS
DECLASSIFIED RELEASABLE X
RELEASE DENIED
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS
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PARIS-3757

4. SEPARATE DECRAENE COMMENTARY EMPHASIZES (1) VOLTAN ARMY ACTED RELUCTANTLY AFTER THREE DAYS HOSTILE DEMONSTRATIONS, (2) VOLTAN (AS OPPOSED CENTRAL AFRICAN) MILITARY HAVE ALWAYS PLAYED POLITICAL ROLE IN COUNTRY WHOSE POPULATION INCLUDES OVER 150 THOUSAND FRENCH ARMY VETERANS EXISTENCE OF WHICH GOUV COULD NOT AFFORD IGNORE. THIS IS REASON, DECRAENE CONTENDS, WHY YAMEOGO UNLIKE HIS ENTENTE PARTNERS REFUSED CONCLUDE DEFENSE ACCORD WITH FRANCE IN MARCH 1961 AND WHY PRINCIPLE

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FRENCH INTERVENTION IN UV CANNOT BE CONSIDERED (NE PEUT MEME PAS SE POSER), (3) LABOR UNIONS OTHER KEY ELEMENT IN VOLTAN PICTURE. INTERSYNDICAL ACTION COMMITTEE AGREED BY PREVIOUSLY DIVIDED VOLTAN LABOR MOVEMENT (3 FEDERATIONS AND 7 AUTOMONOUS UNIONS) ORIGINATED STRIKE WHICH FELLED YAMEOGO REGIME. ECONOMIC STRINGENCIES PREPARED GROUND, (4) NOTEWORTHY THAT ENTENTE PARTNERS FAILED ACT TO SUPPORT YAMEOGO DESPITE RELATIVELY SLOW DEVELOPMENT OF CRISIS, PERSONAL AND RDA-POLITICAL BONDS BETWEEN VOLTAN AND IVORIAN PRESIDENTS AND INTRO-ENTENTE MILITARY ASSISTANCE AGREEMENTS. ABSENCE ENTENTE SUPPORT, DECRAENE FEELS, SUGGESTS IVORIAN LEADER RELUCTANT TAKE INITIATIVE CONSEQUENCES OF WHICH COULD NOT BE FORESEEN.

5. COMMENT: CATEGORIC EXCLUSION OF FRENCH INTERVENTION AS POSSIBILITY IN DECRAENE COMMENTARY ECHOES AFP AND FRENCH RADIO FORMULAE (EMBTEL 3739) AND CONSEQUENTLY SEEMS WORTHY OF NOTE. PERHAPS SIGNIFICANT THAT SITUATION IN UV AND CAR BEING CONTRASTED IN THIS RESPECT BY PRESS AS WELL AS QUAI.
MCBRIDE
BT

NOTE: POUCHED BY OC/T.